

REMARKS:

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 11 and 24 being in independent format. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23-27 have been allowed.

In the Office Action of March 26, 2003, Claim 1 was objected to as being informal for inclusion of the phrase "What is claimed. . ." Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to delete this phrase. The Specification has also been amended to conclude with this phrase.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 28, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for her time and courtesies in the telephone inquiry of June 25, 2003, wherein she indicated that it was not necessary to rewrite the claims in independent format.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 22 have been amended to incorporate the Examiner's suggested Markush language "from the group consisting of".

Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to recite "said tufted surface covering" in accordance with the antecedent basis recited in the preamble of independent claim 24.

In addition, the spelling of "thiourea" has been corrected in paragraph 20 of the specification and in claims 5 and 16.

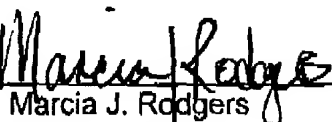
In view of the amendments contained herein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-29 as amended are now clear and definite and in condition for allowance.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application can be advanced thereby, she is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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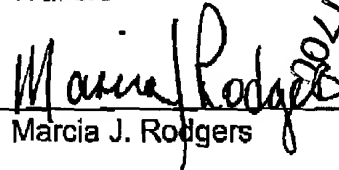
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I hereby certify that this Amendment for Application Serial No. 09/681,865 filed June 19, 2001, is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 872-9310 on June 26, 2003.

Ian D. Walters

By


Marcia J. Rodgers

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